

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 161540Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5166

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0743

EXDIS

FOR BARBOUR EUR/WE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AAUD

SUBJECT: FS INSPECTION

REF: BARBOUR/BEAUDRY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF TODAY

1. AS MENTIONED IN OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF TODAY THERE
FOLLOWS TEXT OF MESSAGE.

QUOTE: WE WELCOME THE NEWS OF THE UPCOMING INSPECTION OF ROME
AND ITS SEVEN CONSTITUENT POSTS. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR TOTAL CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH
ITALY IS A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST TO OUR ENTIRE STAFF.

2. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT
WE ARE AT PRESENT IN THE THROES OF A COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING
OF OUR POLITICAL REPORTING FUNCTION, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION
TO DEVOTE AS MUCH TIME AND EFFORT AS WE SHOULD TO THE PREP-
ARATION OF MATERIAL LEADING TO AN EARLY INSPECTION.

3. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, I HAVE A SPECIAL MANDATE FROM THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY TO ENSURE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS IS ADHERED TO IN ITALY IN THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD WHICH
LEADS TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS. TO COMPLICATE THIS EFFORT WE
NOW HAVE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS WHICH MAY PRECIPITATE EARLY
ELECTIONS. THE WHOLE MISSION, OR AT LEAST THE SUBSTANTIVE
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SECTIONS, WILL BE ENTIRELY COMMITTED TO OUR MAIN TASK DURING

THE PERIOD CONTEMPLATED FOR THE INSPECTION.

4. I BELIEVE IN ALL CANDOR THAT OUR EFFORTS MUST NOT BE DIM-
INISHED BY OTHER, EXCEPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND, THEREFORE,
REQUEST THAT THE ITALY INSPECTION BE PUT OFF UNTIL LATER.
UNQUOTE VOLPE

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